



HUNTER, A.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

November 8, 1978

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Alice Hunter
Department of Biological Science
University of the Pacific
Stockton, California 95204

Dear Alice:

Your last letter arrived at Stanford just as we were in the throes of the most hectic time of arranging our departure, packing, and leaving for New York. Subsequently, you can use your own imagination about the preoccupations: not to mention the installation proceedings here just awhile ago, I had some surgery on my right shoulder from which I am just recuperating. So for now, I have to dictate all of my correspondence: even some that I would otherwise have dealt with considerably more personally.

Alice: I had no inkling of the troubles that you were facing, and was quite shocked to hear about Francis' death and the circumstances that attended it. I am so sorry. Your comment about science and faith reminded me of many conversations that we had years ago: I guess it has been a very long time since I had for myself reached the point of understanding that science was very much a human activity that could serve very important human ends. I could certainly find continuing to work in an engaging and significant area of scientific work as an inherent compensation for other kinds of loss, but not in the sense that it was an end in itself that that, apart from its application to human needs, could offer the kind of spiritual solace that you are seeking. Nevertheless with all of the detraction that one hears these days about scientific work I still do have some simple faith in the underlying value of the whole enterprise. I tried to say something about that in my installation address: and believing that you might be interested in that I have included a few excerpts. None of this can take the place of your own inner resources and the network of your connections to your family and friends for the bereavement that you are experiencing just now.

Dr. Alice Hunter
November 8, 1978

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Having just come back to New York, the people that have been the greatest to reconnect with have been Elizabeth Ryan, which would not be a surprise, and Salome Waelsch, whose warmth and affection and sheer vitality have all gone beyond what I could have reasonably hoped for. I am looking forward to seeing, sometime soon, Sylvia Frank and Marion Himes and the Atwoods: and that list is probably almost all of the remaining "old timers" of Schmerhorn Hall. In fact Schmerhorn itself is just about to be vacated by biology, going into new quarters, and will be turned over to art history of all things!

I do not know how important any of this can seem to you at the present time. I suspect that above all else time itself will be the main source of new hope and confidence. But to that let me add my own fond affection.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua".

Joshua Lederberg

Encl.